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DOLL TALK

FOR . . .
COLLECTORS

Volume 12, Number 1

July - August, 1957

Royalty Is None Too Choice For Kimport Collectors!

If the dolls described in this story were not authenticated, we would not blame you for being skeptical about their amazing history. But Kimport has the proof.

First is the Duke of Wellington doll, a real portrait likeness, as shown here. For many years this craigly featured papier-mache was a prize exhibit in the Harrogate Museum in England. Pictured and noted in the official museum catalog, he was certified as follows:—"In former days boys had their dolls, these often were representations of well known people, e.g. Duke of Wellington." This very doll will be on exhibit at The Emporium in San Francisco, Aug. 8. He is numbered A362, priced \$160.00, and for sale there.

One of the most famous of all the world's exhibition buildings was the Crystal Palace of London, opened in great state by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1851. The noted statesman, Richard Cobden records the frequent visits of the Duke of Wellington to the Palace. "I had the daily opportunity of witnessing, at the Great Exhibition last year, that all else of interest sank to insignificance, even in that collection of a world's wonders, when He made his entry into the Crystal Palace. There was a frenzy of admiration

and enthusiasm which took possession of a hundred thousand people of all classes at the very announcement of his name!" Among the choice displays, there of course was a section for dolls. In it would have been shown dolls of the current fashion, and yes, "antiques"—rare, prized examples of earlier years. And what became of these dolls that vied ever so modestly with royalty for the attention of thronging visitors? Well, we know that fourteen of them came down as family possessions of some Brighton folk, then after being treasured all the years in this one household, an aged descendent, finally, though reluctantly, turned them into funds needed for more critical wants.

Four have papier-mache heads, the rest glazed china, all these with warm, pinkish complexion and interesting old hair styles. These Crystal Palace dolls are shelf size, the largest being the papier-maches, 9½ to 10½ inches tall, and the smallest, a leather bodied chinahead, just short of 5½ inches. One thing that was revealing is that all of these, except a very old pair of (not china) statuesque sisters, are dressed in foreign or peasant garb. One slender little china with a snood and another with a circle



comb modeled into her prim hair style are in Welsh dress; others are Swiss or French provincials. Prices are remarkably reasonable—from \$155.00 for the composition ladies (2 dolls) down to \$72.50 for the other two that are pair priced; these are delightful 6 inch boy and girl children in, I think, Alsatian dress. No need to "rub it in" or even "lay it on." They are far too few—all fourteen adorable, historic collector prizes.

And Another Precious Group

You probably have noted the facsimile letter on the back page of this Doll Talk written by M. D. Blake. Our English agent, who had heard of the Queen Victoria Christmas dolls, had developed acquaintance with this Miss Blake and her sister. After considerable delay, at last word had come that the Victorian dolls could be had.

"I went down to see her a few days ago and found two charming ladies of the old school. Miss M. D. (age 78) met me at the bus stop, very correct in country attire, a tweed suit and brogue shoes, brandishing a walking stick. They told me a lot concerning their lives as children, when their father was head caretaker at Osborne, the Royal House where several Christmases were spent."

Now from a tiny hamlet in the Cotswold hills where the houses are made of great stone blocks, these dolls have traveled to be in San Francisco.

The small dolls and trinkets which Miss Blake mentions were sometime favors to various guests, but the Blake sisters being young were given the dolls by generous older folk. There were seven bisque dolls ranging in size from 4

to 6 inches, all fancifully costumed, all in well kept condition. There is a Scotch Highlander, Le Garcon and La Fille, a lovely boy with bunny ears hat, a strolling musician, a garden party dame, and a Punch in white satin who's grand as a prince! These vary in price from \$25.00 to \$35.00.

It was at one of these parties that the Duke of Connaugh, Queen Victoria's son, gave the wax angel to Miss Blake. Safely embedded in cotton in an ancient cigar box from Manila, this yellowed 6 inch figure with crisp gilt wings is blowing a trumpet as angels are pictured.



As personal presents to the Blake sisters, the three handsome big dolls pictured here were given to the little girls by the Queen. These, quite elegantly costumed wax and composition beauties are included in our San Francisco exhibit.

Probably the two rarest in this remarkable group are the 5 and 6 inch peg jointed, undressed woodens owned and possibly played with by Queen Victoria when she was a child. One is a blond with circle comb, one a brunette with a silly little scarlet and white hat. Their credentials? A personal letter from Miss Blake, as follows: "These wooden dolls were given to me by an old friend. She received them from her nurse who's aunt had been a nursery maid to little Princess (later Queen) Victoria."

It will be a pleasure for Ruby Short McKim to show you these dolls at the San Francisco Emporium, during the National Convention starting August 8.

Y' ALL COME!

One time in Chicago, we met a lot of wonderful doll collectors, among them, Mrs. Ida Smith, who did fulfill her promise to come by Independence some time. She has now written—"I surely enjoyed my first trip to Missouri, and Kimport was such a home-like old place. I had expected just a little shoppe in some busy part of town, but this house that you said your father built over fifty years ago seems to me a perfect setting for dolls of all kinds."

Of course, we loved having Mrs. Smith, her charming daughter and third generation, Tommy, who we discovered has the same birthday, under the good sign Leo, as Mrs. McKim.

We love to be surprised by doll friends from a distance and come assured that there are always surprising dolls to greet you also.

EXTRA CURRICULAR—DOLLS!

What a grand house mother our devoted collector, Angela Peterson, is, looking after her stalwart Oklahomans! Of course she exposes them to the culture of her dolls—with results as she writes:

"You ask if the boys in the fraternity like my dolls. They are so proud of them; built one nice glass cabinet in my living room for some. This is hardly half of them and none of my big old treasures. My boys bring in all dates and rushees to see them until now they can give 'the dollar tour' as well as I."

LUCK OF THE IRISH

"Sure and she got a Leprechaun"

The idea of the "Bargain Boxes" offered in Doll Talk has appealed to many venturesome collectors and we know you've had fun along with your surprises. As often as possible, Kim tried to "tailor" the contents to the known preferences of the customers and if you had an Irish name you might have fitted the headline.

Miss Dollie A. Merrill of Maine, enters into the spirit of it and we hope she was as pleased as she anticipated: "Like one of the letters in this issue of Doll Talk, I have no more room for dolls, as I have over 2200 of them, and I will have to build something new around here, to house any more. But I am so intrigued by the 'bargain boxes', I think I will have to indulge in one, just for the fun of it. I love surprises, and though I am beyond 50, I am just as much a kid as ever, when it comes to dolls."

THUMBALISSA COSTUME

Mrs. Arthur S. Best has a challenging project that sounds like 90% fun; its her "Micropolitan Toy Shop." Her story of how she transformed two of those 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "Peggy Marias" into dolls of distinction is here told so graphically that anyone might do ditto. Along with adorable tinted sketches, she said:—"At first I was disappointed in the new Peggy Marias size. Other items I had acquired or made for the toy shop seemed so much more detailed by comparison. When I realized the only real drawback was the dress, I took off the gathered ribbon and re-dressed them as you see here.

"The blouse of the peasant costume is made of short lengths of a gauzy ribbon gathered to the doll and sewed in place. The skirt piece was cut along the selvage to avoid hemming. The apron is a snippet of lace gathered and tacked below the brief corselet made by winding red embroidery floss around her.

"The Empire costume so typical of penny woodens is sheerest yellow cotton, trimmed top and bottom with matching lace. Egg dye works like magic and I use a special adhesive which does not soak through or discolor delicate fabrics. It's better than sewing on such tiny garments. It also allows me to use narrow strips cut from the edge of lace that would be too wide, as at the neck here. Black button thread wound tightly at the waist and tied is finished off with a corsage of tiny felt snippets. Adhesive again, and a pair of tweezers do the trick. After the lace trim dried, I pressed in some natural looking folds to the skirt with thumb and finger,

to prevent too stiff an appearance."

Those dolls she converted from peasant to princess are our Kim-port No. 762, "penny woodens" from Italy with hip and shoulder joints, only 60c each. Again, the reminder, we do pay postage on orders over \$1.00.

P. S. For adhesive, Carlotta Best uses "Sobo" from Solomon Laboratories of Long Island City. She buys it locally from a millinery supply house; put up in $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. tubes.

DOLLS PLACE

Marian Scarborough took on the doll room part of their Junior-Senior H.S. Hobby Show. Her daughter, Jo Ann, may have been what we so often say "the peg upon which to hang one's collection yearning." Anyway, Doll Talk went to daughter and Mrs. Scarborough is a teacher and she asks:—

"Any posters?"—Well, yes a set of 18, 9½ x 11 inch, very smart ones in showcard colors with such lettering as "From the South Seas," "American Indians," "Peasant Folk from Central Europe," etc. They have easel backs and are \$5.00, postpaid.

"Category suggestions please"—
to which we might name, Antique,
Foreign, Americana and Playthings.

"What method used to set up a show?"—Oh, bless you, I think main strength and best intelligence on what material is sent. As near to eye level as possible for comfortable seeing.

We have no qualms as to Marian S. being able to improvise; this paragraph was in her questions letter:—"Last year I was presented with a huge branch of pink dogwood. My daughter's Korean bride

doll was gracefully placed beside this, and it, or I, received so many compliments that I was a new woman for weeks! Dolls have many purposes."

DOLL OF THE MONTH

There was "Book of the Month," and "Fruit of the Month" and other gift items before Kimport launched its "Doll of the Month," but in our own field we were undoubtedly first. A good idea—and no wonder the imitations now developing.

The Kimport Doll of the Month Plan varies in important ways from any other service. First: It is not a mass production furnishing of dolls all of one size, price and type. Each of our collectors is an individual, varying from a little school girl interested in geography dolls up to mature folks who want quality and select types. From our careful records we are able to deal with each customer on the personal basis they deserve.

In our Doll of the Month we start on a program decided by yourself. You can tell us your preferences as to size, type, price, continent or other special features and we'll carefully follow your lead. You can pick the actual dolls you want or let us surprise you. Anyway, you'll be delighted month by month as the dolls arrive and with the twelfth doll you'll get a plumb bonus extra doll, the value as the average price of your twelve.

You can pay for them one at a time as received, and of course return any doll not entirely to your liking. We'll gladly send you a circular with more detail and a convenient blank to get your "Doll

A SAD ANNOUNCEMENT

Many of you already have the sad news of the death of Janet Johl on June 19. All other readers of Doll Talk will share the feeling of loss in the passing of such a devoted authority and doll lover. Even those who did not have the rare privilege of knowing Janet personally, admired her for her many books and her helpfulness in the collector field. She'll indeed leave a heritage of friends and her personality be long enshrined in her literary achievements.

of the Month" started just as you want it.

A hobby needs to be individual and a matter of pride. You'll be proud of the dolls you select under the Kimport Plan.

AND STILL "ALWAYS RETURNABLE"

Mrs. Susan Manos of Michigan wrote what y' might call an unsolicited testimonial for our Kimport monthly plan—a way where you may choose your own category—yes—your very own dolls if that's the way you want to do.

Mrs. Manos writes:—It's difficult to express how pleased I am with those first dolls of the month that I have received through your club! Since I joined the club later in the year, may I make up for the months I missed by buying backward as well as forward?

P.S. Georgie said "Certainly"—That's what she is always telling those D.O.M. specials of hers!

"WALKING DOLLS PERFORM NEW TRICKS"

That's the heading in a current newspaper. In London a walking doll takes a stroll with her girl mamma and changes the color of her eyes from blue to brown. (Is that good?)

Long distance commands, given by radio, set a new German doll to dancing, action controlled by a radio transmitter which the owner holds. The doll hides the receiver, electric motor, battery and relay equipment under her skirts, this one shown at a fair in Nuremberg. (Shades of that great old time hand craft center!)

The marvel of today may become the curiosity of tomorrow. What will collectors collect then?

NEW EXCUSE— OLD FRIENDS

When Mrs. Marshall Hollingsworth sent in \$2.35 for "Dolls Tell the Story of Brittany," she said 'twas for a Valentine for herself. We hope she enjoys coloring that delightful aggregation of Provincial dolls in costume into at least a \$5.00 Valentine.

Mrs. H. also reported that four of their Guild members were in charge of a B. and P. Women's Club program at which they would exhibit foreign dolls with some bits of information on the native land of each. She was especially showing her own hand-made Philippine group, lovely old dolls, of which we still have a few. Yes, she bought them when Kimport had a doll show at Bamberger's in Newark, many years ago; but then, Alice Hollingsworth has been a Doll Talk subscriber since (she says) 1938!

BAD FALL, THEN— GOOD HOBBY!

Lucy A. Gooch writes from Washington state that her flame for old dolls became re-kindled when a broken hip had settled her down to dressing "Muffies" for two little granddaughters.

"So that led to Grandma's digging out her old childhood dolls, a lovely 27 inch jointed bisque, my little 5 inch doll with sleeping eyes and two 12 inch kid bodied cuties. Does that lead logically to the fact that I now have become an avid doll collector?"

"Reading in delightful 'Doll Talk' about collectors from different parts of the country is like meeting new friends. I am keeping them and am sewing them together into book form."

RIGHT NEIGHBORLY

Mrs. Willie H. Smith, Virginia, recently wrote one of those friendly letters with a "backward—turn-backward" flavor. She was twelve years old before a real "store" dolly came into her possession, and soon a little sister broke that. "We lived back country during my childhood, but from my earliest remembrances there was a heart-hungry love of dolls that I've never outgrown. Now I have been mending dolls here in my hometown for a year or two and trying to get a little collection together. Most are patched up wrecks, but I love them."

And then Mrs. Smith shares one of her "makeshift repairs"—a little formula for waxing eyes. "I took some old shaving talc and mixed it with white candle butts, adding some red candle as color needed. It works fine and has a sweet odor, too!"

DOLL SHOW IN CLEVELAND

Kimport is happy to announce it's big doll exhibit at Higbee's. This will be in the Toy Department of

HIGBEE'S

August 26 - 31, 1957

There will be over \$5,000.00 worth of collection type dolls, all plainly marked and for sale. Included will be colorful foreign dolls from every part of the globe, as well as important American regional, historical and portrait dolls . . . The antique section will be notable and worth the attention of the most experienced collectors . . . A Kimport personal representative will be present all week to welcome you.

ANNUAL KIMPORT SHOW

Will be held at the
Emporium San Francisco
September 9th to 21st

Please do not be confused over the announcement that Kimport will have two exhibits in San Francisco this year. The August 8 show at the Emporium will be almost exclusively antique dolls, but our regular display, beginning September 9, will be much larger and include all our lines, emphasizing the many colorful foreign dolls we have imported this year.

RUBY SHORT MCKIM will be at this show and anticipates meeting you. You'll be thrilled at the beautiful array of dolls!

SOME CARRIE HALL REMINISCENCES

In the Independence, Missouri Examiner, there was a story of a local study club featuring as their book review, the late Carrie A. Hall's, "From Hoopskirts to Nudity." This was presented in commemoration, with a tour of the Costume Wing of our delightful Kansas City Museum, where, by the way, several special doll shows have been featured.

As to that costume book, covering the periods suggested in its title, this volume is truly considered as authoritative, and so it should be.

My wise, artistic friend, Carrie Hall, was inquisitive concerning all facets of a subject, and an indefatigable enthusiast in following through. She told me of being an early day dressmaker for some officers' wives out at Fort Leavenworth, having designed and made

gowns for the McArthur's, among others.

Carrie Hall wrote perhaps the best reference book on quilts, "The Romance of the Patchwork Quilt in America," and we McKims ran two editions of our own, "A Hundred and One Patchwork Patterns." (No longer available). See what I mean—we two were interested in similar things, artistic, historical, having to do with materials and handwork. So, again, we'll mention a book that Kimport has carried for years. It has nothing to do with dolls as such, but a great deal to offer in how to properly date and help make garments from boots to bustles to bonnets. Profusely illustrated, 240 pages, published 1938 and still available, we hope. R.S.M. Order from Kimport—"Hoopskirts to Nudity," postpaid, \$5.00.

LATE ARRIVALS

Porthos, Athos and D'Artagnan!! The famous Three Musketeers of literature were heroes all, whose names conjure up visions of daring deeds, flashing blades, colorful costumes and humorous escapades.



Dumas himself could find no fault with our wonderful dolls, artistically hand-made by Nina of Barcelona to depict this swashbuckling trio. In recent years, Spanish doll artists have developed the art of caricature in doll form to a high degree and no other craftsman has succeeded with more style and class than Nina Eneroeth. Each doll, hand-made, is a creation to amuse and delight you. Primary materials are felt and damask over a wire frame which allows dolls to take a variety of positions. Two of the

Musketeers hold aloft foaming mugs of ale while the other brandishes his dueling sword. Size is 13 inches, and costumes are properly foppish and elegant in keeping with the period. Porthos is the real dandy of the group with white ruff Elizabethan collar and brocade breeches and doublet. A wonderful addition to any collection, guaranteed to please; No. 1011, D'Artagnan, No. 1011A, Athos, No. 1011B, Porthos, at \$9.95 each. However, who could bear to break up a friendship as legendary as theirs—Special price for the group, \$27.50.

A repeat shipment is just in from the Widow's Home, mission sponsored, in Bharatpur, India. This time we received Raja and Rani, the high caste Hindu couple, rulers of some tiny mountainous kingdom, in colorful costumes gayly bedecked with tinsel braid and beadwork. Also included is the Dancing Girl from their retinue, clad in the classic costume of her profession, complete even to the copper wire earrings. All dolls are hand-sewn, 9 to 10 inches in size, authentically appealing though rather crudely made. No. 671, Raja, No. 672B, Rani and No. 671C, Dancing Girl, priced just \$3.50 each.

A new addition to our lines, also from mysterious India, came in almost the same day! Outside of the equally brilliant hued attire, however, all resemblance to the mission-made dolls ends there as this pair of court entertainers is beautifully made. Their methods of entertainment differ greatly as the man, No. 656, is a Snake Charmer, who, 8½ inches in kneeling position, is attempting to coax, by playing on his strange shaped wooden flute,



a King Cobra out of a large wicker basket. We'll take TV for home entertainment any day compared to that, wouldn't you? The girl, No. 655, is a dancer who plays her own accompaniment on a small oblong drum. Her dress is designed to dazzle in its bright shades of red, yellow, violet, green and silver, further ornamented with cross stitch and many shining mirrors individually inset into her skirt and bodice. Her hat is a high cone, covered with a flowing yellow scarf trimmed in silver braid. Both dolls have well modeled and painted features as well as neatly stitched hands and feet. Snake Charmer is \$5.95, Dancer, \$9.95.

Many of you will remember the artistic Syrian doll creations of the Baroness Belling which we were privileged to handle years ago. Due to the unrest and division currently rampant in the Near East, the Bellings have now taken up residence in Beirut, Lebanon and so, true to the Kimport pledge of imports made in the country they



represent, they have done a few special Lebanese women for us. In ideal eight inch size, these Bedouin girls are elaborately dressed in rainbow hued garments so dear to the Arab heart. Green, red, purple, orange and turquoise velvet and brocade, metallics and tinsel are mixed together with eye catching results. Veiled of course, and with well shaped and painted features, they are doll treasures from a remote and little known land that has remained but slightly changed since Old Testament days. No. 284A, \$12.50.

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg sends us an 11 inch, high grade celluloid doll attired in the authentic costume still worn by peasants of this tiny state. Though sober in costume hue, Doll Charlotte is still plenty attractive with shapely legs and delicate hands—really a



beauty from her maroon shoe soles to the peak of her frilled white bonnet! Her dress is a slate gray with lace edged petticoat and hanky and a sweet blue checked apron. A worthy representative of a small but ancient country, No. 305, \$9.95.

Doctor Dolls, used in old China for diagnosis thus permitting a woman to retain her modesty, rate high as exotic family treasures. We have at present two or three such

ivory heirlooms that have actually been used for many generations. Write, should you be interested, but the one offered here is a commercial substitute, oh, it could be bought and used for most modest interpretation of symptoms, but these are something that we think were made up to sell as curios. They are hand-carved of "art ivory" with a deep, simulated patina, with some rose, green and black tinting on the recumbent figure. This lady, by the way, is well draped, 5 inches long and each "patient" is fitted onto a carved base couch of black stained wood. An effective doll, a conversation piece as the theory on her pedigree page suggests, and definitely a bargain. No. 424X at \$4.50.

Jan and Micke of Holland are delightful little 5 inch stylized wooden children we have offered before, but repeat shipment, by popular demand, shows the same cute costumes, unmistakably Dutch right down to their wooden yellow shoes; with hand-painted features and golden yarn hair as our previous stock. Same number and price — Jan, No. 300 and Micke, No. 300A, just \$1.95 each.



GRANDMA RITCHIEY— BLESS HER!

We have liked almost everything Grandma Ritchey does, from the amazing dolls she creates, imaginative, or in the likeness of her neighbors, to the sprightly comments that she is apt to note on any new figure. Now, when she gets sentimental, we love her all the more. Can you blame us for cornering every doll she can produce and almost grudgingly doling them out to those who really appreciate her art?

Here we share part of her Easter letter with you. "I wish your establishment was next door—I'd enjoy running in to bother you, that is, if I ever get to 'running in' again. My running gear is kind of out of order! However, I did get to church last Sunday, the first time I had ventured outside of the house in six months. Had a new hat—didn't look like myself as folks kept saying, 'how nice you look, Grandma!' Everybody calls me grandma and I like it. You see I've lived her for 57 years in this friendly little town." Who wouldn't be friendly with Grandma Ritchey! She is an artist with rare creative ability that is akin to Grandma Moses. And she has a heart that radiates love, so after 86 years, she is certainly entitled to bask now in its well earned warmth!

—A. E. M.

"PROOF OF THE PUDDIN'"

You'd really have to see a Grandma Ritchey doll to appreciate it. As we wrote in a former Doll Talk, "these are dolls that look more like people—than, well, some people do!" There are never two alike

of course. Each doll is a whimsical personality, with the stark realism that makes for classic Americana. Sizes run 10, 11, 12 inches and the heads and hands are modeled from material that is a concoction of Grandma Ritchey's, but singularly life-like when painted. The costumes are old-time in cut and color and always exactly suited to their character. Each has a story tag compiled to interpret the character and couched, when possible, in Grandma Ritchey's words. For instance:

"Moshe Siegelman's boy, Dave, has started one of those Hobby Shops where they sell Try-it-Your-Self stuff along with toy and goldfish. But Dave is sort o' dubious!"

"Aunt Ellen has brought flowers to the Methodist Church every Sunday that she could scrape up blossoms from her garden, her little hot-house, or a 'winter-bouquet'"

"Angelina Hubbard is a good, self-respecting citizen who does day work for pay, or if its a day-helping out for a supper by the Methodist sisters—it's freely given for the church."

"Miss Lottie May is slipping up her lacy headscarf before going into our "Little Cathedral" for a bit of devotion. Lettie May looks good because she is!"

"Old Ernest Mayberry still has opinions about everything from clouds to Communists. He can't hear so good any more, but that doesn't make too much difference, as Earnie always set his own ideas, anyway."

"Poor Maude Ormsby would give five years of her life to look pretty, but she just wasn't fashioned that way. Here she is in that war-time China silk, but feeling sad that

bobbing her rich brown hair hasn't done a thing to change her features!"

"'Hobo Joe' alias 'Red Rover' is one of as vanishing a tribe as the Comanches. He is an Original Real Folks Doll by Grandma Ritchey, who well remembers when these tramps appeared 'round harvest time."

"Hallie Belle Mosby has taught 5th grade for—well, 'twouldn't be fair to tattle, because now she is wearing a new diamond ring on the proper finger. Good luck, Miss Hallie."

Whew! It's hard to quit quotin' and put aside the now about forty of our accumulated Ritchey dolls. These we have talked about are in a special box awaiting your request to see—or suggest some other. In the men, we have them from the retired minister down to a half-witted handy man; ladies—from the mayor's wife to a gypsy. There's one doctor with a querulous old woman patient. Prices range from \$16.50 to \$22.00; those quoted are mostly \$21.00 each. Returnable? Of course, so-o, we dare you!

FIVE HUNDRED TO SHARE

Miss Lucia Cromwell (Calif.) air mailed a rush order for Sacajawea, as, "I'm loaning dolls as table decorations for a teachers club dinner. I now own about 500, but my state dolls and book characters aren't as numerous as the internationals, so we'll welcome this new addition. Many years ago, I bought the four Little Women from Kimport. Do



you have their mother, father or Laurie?"

The answer to this was, "No, but we surely could have them done special."

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.

—SLIP IS SHOWING

In writing Doll Talk with posterity in mind, it should be formally stated that errors do occur betimes, dear, dear. But in the vernacular of today, here are a couple of Boo-boos.

That Bethlehem Bridegroom—the sample came from Manger Square at one price, plus estimated duty perhaps—it was catalogue printing time and so in the B. G. slipped, No. 854 at \$5.75. Mina Ruth, much, much more elaborately dressed in Judean finery was—is—No. 854A, \$6.50; that is correct. But when the stock of gentlemen arrived in their long damask coats and turbans, they were cheaper by the dozen. So, Mr. Bethlehem Bridegroom, No. 854, is only \$4.50 and you can make that change in your catalogue if you'd care to.

These are all hand-made cloth dolls, about 9 inches tall, but the bride's tall veiled and coin-decked headdress add a good 2 inches. At \$10.25 for the pair, they are a delightfully different addition to any foreign collection.

Another? Well, on our carefully edited and condensed new yellow sheet book list, the very second one, "Becky, My First Love," was

long gone from its publisher source. May this apology for our inexcusably including that sweet little volume reach you in time to stop others from ordering! Sorry—but perhaps if one never made any silly mistakes, she would be smug and intolerable of anyone who did, and that is the moral to r'member.

SURE, PRICE IS IMPORTANT!

Reading Page 8 of the last issue of Doll Talk you found everything important about the Hungarian dolls except the price! We have had many reminders and hasten to make amends.

They are all wonderful dolls, and excellent values. Each of the numbers from 205A to 205E have the same price, \$7.95. Sorry to have delayed your possible order, but we still have stock and can hurry one or several to you on invitation.

**DOLLS POSE—
POSTMAN WHISTLES!**

Mrs. Lillian Draper (California) was writing of her pleasure in receiving a fine 'bailed-out-from-hold', antique china doll.

—"And the doll stands were splendid; that largest one of all (\$4.50) I used on a huge doll who had always sat in a chair. Now she is safely inside the glass case looking out. My daughter has done over the arrangement of the dolls and cases, quite handsomely, we think.

"Oh, there is our postman! He has been on this route nine years, with time out for Korea. He loves to stop betimes, to admire the dolls; says he knows where Kimport Doll House is and is going to stop by there if possible on his vacation."



SPEAKING OF ANTIQUES

Not often do we omit this stock heading from an issue of Doll Talk, but this time the offering is a down-to-earth, inexpensive, sawdust stuffed group, oh, definitely middle class if not plebeian. Fact is, that front page story about Royalty etc., sounds like it might have been penned with m' ostrich quill, whilst waving a lorgnette with the other hand; such name dropping—not only the "Duke of Connaught" but "THE Iron Duke" and "Prince Albert" and as to the Queen herself, how we did take advantage of documentary data and trickle Her Royal Highness liberally and intentionally all throughout National Convention Dolls story! But seriously, we are justly proud, as well as glibly vain to have secured such collections to offer.

Now for the lowbrow china heads, the final old warehouse stock of a long-time New York importer. There were several big cartons, nearly all in the three sizes listed below. Two or three years ago, they had cleaned out all the smaller sizes, many to Kimport, as you may remember. These dolls are not replicas. They are old china heads, stamped "Germany," on clean original sawdust stuffed bodies with china arms and legs. Only the largest has glazed legs with blue bow garters painted on them. All are black-haired (painted, of course) all are blue-eyed, painting not so perfect as on a fine antique, but prices, too, are different.

No. 614V—10"—\$4.50

No. 614X—11"—\$5.00

No. 614Z—12"—\$7.50

THE DOLL COLLECTOR'S GUILD PHILANTHROPIC PROJECT

(Mrs. F. Fleischer, who is Permanent Chairman of the Doll Collectors Guild, wrote us about its helpful project.)

"We decided the first year we were organized to set up a fund to benefit handicapped children, and chose as it's permanent beneficiary, the Children's Ward of the N. Y. State Rehabilitation Hospital at West Haverstraw, N. Y. This hospital serves as a rehabilitation center for any and all crippling diseases. The ward which The Guild is particularly interested in caters to the age group from birth to age ten.

"The philanthropies are largely supported by the members through doll exhibits and luncheons at individual houses or by special money raising projects carried on by interested members.

"Rather than make a haphazard donation, we contact the head nurse to find out just what items the hospital staff members, from their own personal experience with the children, can recommend as "the thing most needed at present." All the gifts donated are chosen by the hospital staff and paid for by The Guild. We have a "Christmas in the Spring" to take care of their needs at a time when most people forget the hospitalized youngsters.

"This, then, is the way the members of the Doll Collector's Guild put our dolls to work for us and at the same time provide pleasure and comfort for hospitalized children."

NOT ALL KIND WORDS

You probably know from experience how Kimport keeps plugging away reminding everyone when their Doll Talk subscriptions expire. We'd send them free, but as a company we have to keep solvent and many a dollar bill flutters out of returning letters and enough compliments on our little magazine to turn a body's head! Maybe we need a bit of humblin' just for our soul's sake, now and then, and here's one collector's opinion: "Received my book, expected more pictures. I don't have any time for reading, have too many other doll books. I like books with all pictures, so will not be interested in the Doll Talk at present. I like all pictures and not too much reading."

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"I find that, more and more, I lean to the story book characters and would like to know what you may have that I don't. Two foreign doll cabinets are in the girls' room, and an old family china closet in my son's room. It is bulging with the book folk, portrait dolls, antique doll-house dolls, and creche treasures. He just loves it!"

—Marjorie K. Brandt, Penna.

"The Navajo brave and squaw make a fine looking couple, much admired in the Indian shelf in my school library."

—Helen F. Benner, Maine

"What a wonderful job you do, and have always done, with 'Doll Talk'! I'll love it always!"

—Carolyn A. John, Conn.

"Your choice of books is just wonderful for my needs. It seems Carrie Hall's 'From Hoopskirts to Nudity' would be interesting to anyone, interested in fashions."

—Elizabeth Baldinger, Calif.

"As guest speaker at several Mother and Daughter banquets, it was amazing how wide was the range in age (92 years down to 3 years in one group). This proves again, a gal never outgrows her love for dolls!"

—Cornelia Christopher, N. J.

"I have just received the book, 'Miniature Travelers' and am perfectly delighted with it. The chapter called 'Miss Calvert's Doll' was of especial interest to me as old Mt. Airy, home of the Calverts, is very near our own home. My father spent many of his young days there, and was a dear friend of Miss Eleanora and Mr. Cecil Calvert, living there at the time. Mt. Airy later came into the hands of my uncle and so I, too, attended many parties and dances in this lovely old mansion."

—Susan Duvall Smith, Maryland

"Over ten years has passed since I last ordered one of your dolls for my collection. High school, college, marriage and now two little girls with doll collections of their own, keep me busy."

—Mrs. Lowell A. Napper, Calif.

"You already know, but I can't help telling you again, it is such a pleasure trading with you. You don't push or pull, you just try to please, and all through the years, I have been pleased with my Kimport purchases." —Prudy Cole, Miss.

KIMPORT DOLL OFFERINGS

With A Queen's Pedigree!

These small dolls were personally received by me, from the Royal Christmas trees at Osborne, during the years 1890 - 1895. These were exclusively a family fertility with the exception of myself (the Agent's youngest Child) & one other small girl. The big drawing room at Osborne presented a happy & lively scene, with the beautifully decorated tree, & Her great little Majesty seated in the centre of her grand children. Every child, on receiving a gift, ran to show it to "Gan-Gan" The Duke of Connaught & others of the Royal Family cut off the gifts, with lively comments. On handing me the little wax angel, he said "Tell your Mother to hang this over your bed to be your guardian angel."

M. D. Blake.

This facsimile certifies the origin of 14 Victorian dolls

During several years past, Kimport has been obtaining, direct from England and France, many fine antique dolls. Working from our request list, as many of you know, we have placed these in appreciative hands as fast as they became available. We were only sorry that there were not enough always to go around to our numerous mail order customers.

You will forgive us this time for honoring the National Convention of the United Federation of Doll Clubs, Inc. in San Francisco, by giving the delegates first chance at such historic dolls. All those described in the previous article, and scores more of regular antiques, will be on display and sale:

August 8 to 10th, in the Art Needlework Department of the
EMPORIUM on Market Street, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

KIMPORT DOLLS,

BOX 495
INDEPENDENCE, MO.